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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE LATE PROFESSOR DELBŒUF.

The last number of the JOURNAL chronicled the sudden death of its coöperative editor, Professor Delbœuf. The following details of his life and professional career may be of interest to psychological readers.

Joseph Remi Léopold Delbœuf was born at Liège in 1831, and spent the greater part of his working life as professor of classical philology in the university of his native town. He died at Bonn on August 14th of the present year, having been seized with illness as he was travelling to the third international congress of psychology held at Munich in the first week of that month. He carried his sixty-five years well; and no one who had seen him in 1895—still less one whose memory dates from the part he took in the London congress of 1892—would have anticipated his early death.

Professor Delbœuf was indefatigable as an author. He has made lasting contributions to philology, physiology, psychology and philosophy. Of his publications in the last two fields the most important are his *Prolégomènes philosophiques de la géométrie* (Liège, 1860); the *Essai de logique scientifique* (Liège, 1865); three volumes on 'questions in philosophy and science'; the *Examen critique de la loi psychophysique* and the *Eléments de psychophysique, générale et spéciale* (both Paris, 1883) and *Le sommeil et les rêves* (Paris, 1885); the *Etude psychophysique; recherches théoriques et expérimentales sur la mesure des sensations*, etc. (Brussels, 1873); *La psychologie comme science naturelle, son présent et son avenir* (Paris and Brussels, 1876); *Théorie générale de la sensibilité* (Brussels, 1876); *L'hypnotisme et la liberté des représentations publiques* (Liège, 1888); *L'hypnotisme appliquée aux altérations de l'organe visuel* (Paris, 1890); *Magnétiseurs et médecins* (Paris, 1890); *Le magnétisme animal, à propos d'une visite à l'école de Nancy* (Paris, 1889); *L'hypnotisme devant les chambres législatives des Belges* (Paris, 1892); etc., etc.

Professor Delbœuf owed his first allegiance to the *Revue philosophique*, to which he had contributed since its foundation, and where he concluded in April of last year his series of articles on the "Old and New Geometries." But he took a lively interest in the affairs of the JOURNAL, and had promised one if not two papers for the coming year. In him the world loses one of the most original and at the same time one of the most erudite of modern psychologists.

CONGRESS NOTES.

The question as to the nature of feeling and emotion, though still a long way from final settlement, seems to have given place to a general interest in the more fundamental problem of the relation of mind and body. "Parallelism" and "interaction" were the

favorite topics of conversation, among normal psychologists at any rate, at the Munich Congress. The immediate impulse to this interest was imparted, no doubt, by the opening address of Professor Stumpf, who devoted the main body of his presidential speech to a polemic against parallelism. But recent psychological literature has been rife with discussions of the problem, and one of the features of the last meeting of the American Psychological Association was a debate on the place of consciousness in organic evolution,—a debate that has not yet been brought to a conclusion. At Munich the balance of professional opinion appeared to be on the side of parallelism; and it was noteworthy that the interactionists, following the presidential example, were content to support their own position by attacking that of their opponents. Positive arguments for interaction, on the lines of those urged, *e. g.*, by Professor James, were not forthcoming.

In his address of welcome the rector magnificus paid a special compliment to American psychology. The compliment was heartily applauded. Yet one could not fail to be struck with the ignorance of English-written literature displayed by German psychologists, and by the lack of it in German university libraries. This state of things is due, in part, no doubt, to the large attendance of English-speaking students at German seats of learning: if they are obliged to seek instruction in Germany, they cannot leave much that is worth knowing behind them. The German student himself very rarely travels outside of his own country for even a portion of his education. As the German Ph. D. becomes less a matter of course, and teachers get their training more in their home laboratories, it may be expected that Germany will come to hold foreign psychological literature in greater respect.

Herr Zimmermann had several new instruments or appliances on exhibition. Chief among them were the von Frey bristle-æsthesiometer, a novel and very convenient color-disc motor, the Marbe color-mixing apparatus, and some comparatively cheap drums for demonstration purposes. A new model time-sense machine was also shown in action; but the latest Meumann contacts were not displayed. Herr Zeiss had an interesting, if not particularly psychological, exhibit. Herr Appunn showed his steel wire forks for deep tones, along with other apparatus. Dr. Stern's arrangement for the obtaining of continuous tonal change by the rise of mercury in a blown bottle promises to be most useful, and should not be expensive, given the bellows. The other exhibits were, in the main, of 'technical' electrical instruments.

The Congress had one important reason for self-congratulation,—it attracted many eminent investigators in the fields of anatomy and physiology. Professor Flechsig gave what was, in some respects, *the* lecture of the whole meeting; Professor Exner read a paper; Professor Hering was present, though he took no part in the proceedings. All this is a new departure, and a very welcome one.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- BOURNEVILLE. Discours prononcés les 7, 24, 25, et 28 juillet, 1896, aux distributions des prix des écoles municipales d'infirmières laïques. (Reprint, Laïcisation de l'Assistance Publique Enseignement Professionnel des Infirmières. No. 19, pp. 733-792.)
BOURNEVILLE, *et al.* Recherches cliniques et thérapeutiques sur l'épilepsie, l'hystérie et l'idiotie. Compte-Rendu du service des enfants idiots, épileptiques et arriérés de Bicêtre pendant

- l'année 1895. Volume XVI, avec 31 figures dans le texte et 8 planches. F. Alcan, Paris, 1896, pp. lxxi-254.
- ELLIS AND SYMONDS. Das Konträre Geschlechtsgefühl. Deutsche Originalausgabe besorgt unter mitwirkung von Dr. Hans Kurella. Pp. xvi, 308. Georg H. Wigand's Verlag, Leipzig, 1896.
- MÜLLER. Kant's Critique of Pure Reason. Translated into English by F. Max Müller. Pp. xxvi-808. The Macmillan Co., N. Y., 1896. Price, \$3.
- STRATTON. Ueber die Wahrnehmung von Druckänderungen bei verschiedenen Geschwindigkeiten. Separat-Abdruck aus Wundt's Philosophische Studien, XII Band, 4 Heft. Leipzig 1896.

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE WELBY PRIZE.

A prize of £50, to be called the *Welby Prize*, is offered for the best treatise upon the following subject:

The causes of the present obscurity and confusion in psychological and philosophical terminology, and the directions in which we may hope for efficient practical remedy.

Competition is open to those who, previously to October 1st, 1896, have passed the examinations qualifying for a degree at some European or American university.

The donor of the prize desires that general regard be had to the classification of the various modes in which a word or other sign may be said to possess 'meaning,' and to corresponding differences of method in the conveyance or interpretation of 'meaning.' The Committee of Award will consider the practical utility of the work submitted to them as of primary importance.

The essays, which may be written in English, French or German, must be typewritten, and extend at least to 25,000 words. They should be headed by a motto, and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name of the writer. They may be sent to any member of the undersigned Committee of Award, and must reach their address not later than January 1st, 1898. The right of publication of the successful treatise is reserved.

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